



**JACKSONVILLE  
TRANSPORTATION  
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**Greg Evans**  
*Board Member*

**Chief Executive Officer**

**Nathaniel P. Ford Sr.**

**Administration**

Jacksonville Regional  
Transportation Center  
at LaVilla  
100 LaVilla Center Drive  
Jacksonville, FL 32204

**Operations**

P.O. Drawer "0"  
100 N. Myrtle Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32203

Main (904) 630-3181  
Fax (904) 630-3166

[www.jtafla.com](http://www.jtafla.com)

June 16, 2020

Congressman Peter DeFazio  
Chairman, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
U.S House of Representatives  
2134 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

The developments around the national emergency due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) evolved quickly, and during this time our thoughts are with you and your families. At the Jacksonville Transportation Authority (JTA) the safety, health and security of our customers, employees and community is and will always be our top priority. We know at this time the JTA's services are not just a source of mobility for customers, but a vital link to health and human services. As such, we have taken various proactive steps to mitigate exposure of COVID-19, while still providing vital transportation services. Some of the actions taken include:

- Limiting customers in our buses by half, blocking off seats to guarantee space and comfort to customers, while following the Center for disease Control (CDC) guidelines. This was also applied to JTA facilities
- Increased cleaning and disinfecting of all our vehicles
- Providing meal delivery to identified locations by the City of Jacksonville, and providing buses for the test sites to serve as a safe place for our first responders
- Launching an autonomous vehicles service that facilitates the safe transport of COVID-19 tests collected at a drive-thru testing location at Mayo Clinic

As we face this challenge, we are already feeling the repercussions from a ridership and financial standpoint. While the JTA is a not-for-profit government entity, we do have a responsibility to be good stewards of taxpayers' funds. At the same time, we must continue running a reliable and safe service for all. During the time that strict quarantine was in place, our ridership went down close to 70%, and currently our ridership loss is about 50% of what we were servicing before quarantine began.

We know at this time, the JTA's services are not just a source of mobility for customers, but a vital link to health and human services. And as our fair city continues to lift quarantine restrictions, we know that our role during the recovery phase increases to be a vital link for job access and economic development. It is because of this that we want to express our strong support



for the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act, also known as the INVEST in America Act. This bill will re-authorize surface transportation programs set to expire in September 2020 for another 5-years, while dedicating over \$105 billion for public transportation.

The funding assigned in the INVEST in America Act will go to strengthen and rebuild an essential industry that during this pandemic showed how valuable it is for those who otherwise would not have access to health services and essential needs if it weren't for the buses and trains that keep communities going. We understand the bill will be thoroughly reviewed by the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and the U.S. Congress, and that amendments will be made to the bill. However, we want to express our strong support for the bill to keep the strong funding that will help us prepare and plan for the public transportation of the future, as well as for the programs created that moves forward the concepts of mobility as a service and integrates innovation and technology into our systems.

On behalf of the JTA family, I urge you to provide the JTA and the public transportation industry the resources and tools through congressional action for us to continue providing this life sustaining service during the present emergency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathaniel P. Ford Sr.", is written over the typed name and title.

Nathaniel P. Ford Sr.  
Chief Executive Officer



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June 16, 2020

Congressman Sam Graves  
Ranking Member, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
U.S House of Representatives  
2164 Rayburn Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Graves:

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